

**RESOLUTION  
OF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
MID-MISSOURI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

**In Support of Enhanced Private Attorney Involvement  
With LSC-Funded Programs**

**Whereas**, the Legal Services Corporation and the programs it funds, including Mid-Missouri Legal Services Corporation, have long recognized that the overarching values of private attorney involvement to LSC-funded programs are increased access, increased human and capital resources and increased pro bono commitment; and

**Whereas**, at its April 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation adopted Resolution 2007-003 supporting and encouraging private attorney involvement and urging governing boards of LSC-funded programs to collaborate with other organizations to effectively engage lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons; and

**Whereas**, the LSC Board of Directors resolution builds upon the following national LSC initiatives:

- The October 2005 LSC report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans*, which found that 50 percent of the potential clients requesting assistance from an LSC grantee were turned away for lack of resources on the part of the program;
- The *LSC Strategic Directions 2006-2010*, which calls upon LSC to increase public awareness of and support for legal services to low-income persons in order to respond appropriately to more of their legal needs;
- The *LSC Performance Criteria*, which consider, in evaluating a program's legal representation and other activities intended to benefit the low-income population in its service area, whether that program effectively integrates private attorneys into its work in order to supplement the amount and effectiveness of its representation and other services;
- The Provision for the Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the LSC Board of Directors 2006 meetings, which highlighted the potential, the opportunities and the challenges of private attorney involvement and determined ways in which this critical resource can be used more effectively by LSC-funded programs as a means to help close the justice gap;
- The unanimous adoption in January 2007 by LSC Board of Directors of a strategic work plan entitled *Action Plan for Private Attorney Involvement: Help*

*Close the Justice Gap, Unleash the Power of Pro Bono*, which highlights the benefits of engaging private attorneys to help represent clients of LSC-funded programs and describes ways in which the LSC Board and staff will work to expand private attorney involvement;

- The American Bar Association's Model Rule 6.1 and similar state bar rules note the professional responsibility of every lawyer to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to persons of limited means.

**Whereas**, in Missouri:

Missouri Bar Rule 4-6.1, addressing Voluntary *Pro Bono Publico* Service, provides that all lawyers shall render public interest legal service. The Comments to the Rule provide that every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged.

The Missouri Plan for Equal Access to Justice, January 2000, prepared by the Steering Committee for the Missouri Statewide System, identified pro bono services of private attorneys as one component of its blueprint for a statewide, integrated delivery system providing full access to legal services.

The Missouri Legislature in 2004 expanded Section 105.711.2(5) RSMo to provide payment from the State Legal Expense Fund for malpractice coverage for licensed Missouri attorneys who provide legal services, without compensation, and practice through a nonprofit, tax-exempt community social service center or a federal, state or local government agency.

The Joint Commission to Review Pro Se Litigation, created in October 2002 by Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen N. Limbaugh, in cooperation with the Missouri Bar, recommended in its Pro Se Litigation Interim Feasibility Committee Report, September 2004, that the court system and organized bar should proactively encourage lawyers to offer *pro bono* services annually and encourage initiatives to provide additional sources of pro bono legal assistance.

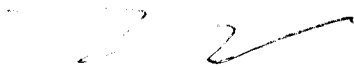
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of Mid-Missouri Legal Services, in an effort to help close the justice gap in Missouri, supports and encourages private attorney involvement with Mid-Missouri Legal Services and will endeavor to:

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in Mid-Missouri Legal Services' 11-county service area to develop and facilitate educational efforts and demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility within those 11 counties by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in Mid-Missouri Legal Services' 11-county service area to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Consider including in that collaboration organizations and entities such as the Missouri Courts; the Missouri Bar Association, including its Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services; the Bar Associations for attorneys practicing in the Missouri Counties of Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Miller, Moniteau, Osage and Randolph; and the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law, including its Family Violence Clinic.
- Develop strategies that encourage *pro bono*, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules and training, mentoring, support and recognition of volunteers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Mid-Missouri Legal Services will promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement in the work of Mid-Missouri Legal Services and by collaborating with national, state and local organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Mid-Missouri Legal Services Corporation on October 24, 2007.



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Truman E. Allen, Board President